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SOURCE Borba.

NEW REGULATIONS ISSUED FOR FARM CO-OPS;
ORGANIZATION OF CO-OPS LAGS

NEW FARM COOPERATIVE REGULATIONS -- Borba, No 83, 7 Apr 49

The First Federal Conference of Cooperative Farmers, meeting in Belgrade, has drawn up new regulations on farm workers' cooperatives to replace the old ones issued at the beginning of 1946.

The new regulations recognize two types of cooperatives on the basis of how land is incorporated into them. In the first type, members of a cooperative contribute their land under a lease. The land remains their own property, and, if they wish to withdraw from the cooperative, they may have it back after 3 years. Members receive a rental, which may not exceed 30 percent of the total net income of the cooperative. Most rents are to be fixed by the annual meeting of cooperative members, which may set it as they see fit, at 10 percent, 3 percent, or abolish it. Most cooperatives, quite properly, have lowered the rental to a very low figure, in some cases 3 percent, realizing that rent is a vestige of capitalism.

These are the lowest type of cooperative, but they prepare their members for a higher form. Consequently, the rents must not be lowered until conditions are ripe.

Cooperatives of the second type are those to which the members contribute their land, retaining ownership of it, and receiving interest of not more than 6 percent (the legal rate of interest), set by the meeting of cooperative members.

In cooperatives of the third type, the land contributed remains the property of the cooperative members, but they receive neither interest nor rent.

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In the fourth and highest type, the land contributed becomes the property of the cooperative.

The regulations emphasize the principle of voluntary entrance into cooperatives and the voluntary evolution of lower types into higher. They also emphasize democracy, as in the provision that all important problems be settled by the meeting of cooperative members.

The regulations specify that not more than a hectare of land [per family] may be set aside for the personal use of cooperative members, in addition to the living quarters and farm buildings needed for their own use. This area does not include the amount of land actually covered by buildings and yards, and it may not contain more than 10 acres of vineyard and orchard. The size of the area is to be determined by the meeting of cooperative members according to the number of members of families and the fertility of the soil.

On this property cooperative members may keep one cow (with the approval of the meeting of members; very large families may keep two cows) and her offspring, a breeding sow and her young, and as many fat hogs as are necessary to feed the family, up to five sheep or goats, up to 10 beehives, an unlimited number of poultry and rabbits, and the necessary feed, seed, and tools.

The members may decide to allow livestock cooperatives in mountain regions another hectare for pasture, up to 15 sheep or goats, one mountain pony or donkey, and, if the cooperative has no small livestock, two cows for the personal use of the members.

The regulations specify five kinds of funds: the basic fund (land, working equipment, buildings, machinery, and livestock), trade fund (cash, feed, and seed), reserve fund (extra seed, livestock, and food), the social fund for aid to invalids, the aged, and the cultural fund.

COOPERATIVE FOUNDING LAGS IN SLOVENIA -- Borba, No 83, 7 Apr 49

Whereas all the other Republics in Yugoslavia have several hundred farm workers' cooperatives each, there were only 59 in Slovenia in 1948, and even now, after the order issued by the Second Plenary Session of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia inspired a great acceleration in the rate of cooperative formation, there are only about 90 in Slovenia. In Macedonia, which is approximately the same size as Slovenia, there are more than 350.

The Slovenian cooperatives are rather weak economically. In February only 1.24 percent of farm families and only 0.72 percent of all cultivable land in Slovenia belonged to cooperatives. The main reason for this backwardness is insufficient effort on the part of agencies responsible for the growth of cooperatives.

In the Slovenian Primorje, where conditions are most favorable, cooperatives have developed better and faster than elsewhere in Slovenia. Almost all the farmers there belong to cooperatives, and over one-third of all farm workers' cooperatives in Slovenia are in this district. However, they have attracted few families. In Sezana Srez no cooperative has a membership of more than 20 families, and seven of the 19 farm workers' cooperatives in Gorica Srez have a membership of less than 10 families each.

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However, until 1948 most of the cooperatives in this district were undeveloped and restricted themselves to trade. There were very few collective farms or farm workers' cooperatives. At the end of 1948, attention was paid to the problem, and about 30 collective farms and more than 20 farm workers' cooperatives were formed.

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